Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 178 I

DATED 20th Feby. 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Periyar Irrigation

Pro: Rev: Depts: recording, with remarks, Board's Pro: reviewing the progress report from the Special Dy Collector, ———, for the quarter ending 30 June 98, Commun[illegible] called to the S. E. VI c[illegible] with direction to see that the procedure referred [illegible] laid down in Para 2 of the order is adopted in future.

[illegible]

[P. W. 2 / 1,000—7-1-99.]

Indexed. 21/2

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public Works (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 763

Wd officer to register + return.
ICS 2/2/99

From
The Revenue Department.

Order No: 178 Dd 20.2.99.

Communicated to the Supg Eng, VI Circle who will see that the procedure laid down in para 2 of the foregoing order is adopted in future.

27/1/99.

Issue

W.H.

29.1.99

To
The Chief Engr for I
Supg Engr, VI
Ex P.W.D.

ICS
26/1/99

Register for reference

No. 347 Misc.

Dated 24th January 1899.

Received
Registered 3.26
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SUBJECT.

Recording, with remarks, Board's Proceedings reviewing the progress report from the Special Deputy Collector, Periyar Irrigation, for the quarter ending 30th June 1898.

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FURTHER PAPE

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16, 4,000—18-10-98.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMEN

Read Proceedings of the Board Revenue, Revenue Settlement, No. 402 dated 26th October 1

Order thereon, Misc. No. 347 d/ 24th Jany 1899.

Recorded.

2. The Government considers that for the future notices affecting the sale of the waste lands or other lands under the project should not be issued by the special Executive Engineer, except in consultation with the Collector and with his concurrence. The necessary instructions will be issued in the Public Works Department.

3. It would appear that the delay in the completion of the distributaries was chiefly due to deficient establishment. The Government understands that the establishment has now been strengthened and that satisfactory progress is now being made.

(True Extract.)

W. Marjoribanks

for Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, Rev. Sett.

,, ,, Land Revenue.

,, P. W. Dept. (Irrigation.)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

CHIEF ENGINEER
FOR IRRIGATION.
30 NOV. 1898
No. 483 Ul

Recd. } 1898.

Regd.

Enclosures

Spare copies

Printed November 12th.

Proceedings, No. 402, 26th October 1898.

OCTOBER.

Periyár Irrigation.—Reviewing the progress report from the Special Deputy Collector, —, for the quarter ending 30th June 1898.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following letter from M.R.Ry. M. TIRUMALAI PILLAI Avergal, Special Deputy Collector, Periyár Irrigation, to the Collector of Madura, dated 30th August 1898, Dis. No. 65-R. :—

I have the honour to submit my progress report for the quarter ending 30th June 1898.

2. *Disposal of darkhasts.*—During the quarter under report, a few cases pending here and there in some of the villages of the Madura and Mélúr taluks were disposed of. As regards the five villages on the south bank of the Vaigai depending on the Chittanai and which were declared as Periyár-affected, the Special Executive Engineer has now written to say that he had no thought of any extension of wet cultivation on the south side of the Vaigai and that it is therefore inadvisable to encourage the idea of any appreciable extension, as there will not be sufficient water for it. The disposal of darkhasts in these villages has therefore to be postponed. The sub-division work, which was undertaken by the Survey Department, had been stopped for want of budget provision for the cost of establishment. Now the Government has been pleased to make provision for the same, and the Survey Department have resumed charge of sub-division work. Out of 101 villages in the Madura taluk and 33 villages in the Mélúr taluk now affected by the Periyár, the survey of sub-divisions of 32 villages in the Mélúr taluk has been completed. It seems that arrangements have been made in consultation with the Madura Division Deputy Collector to commence the survey of sub-divisions of the Periyár-affected villages of Madura taluk.

3. *Disposal of applications for loans.*—Two hundred and eight applications involving an amount of Rs. 40,900 were received during the quarter, and the total number of applications that had to be disposed of during the quarter, including the cases pending at the end of the previous quarter, was 584 involving an amount of Rs. 1,08,985. Of these, 110 applications involving an amount of Rs. 11,730 were rejected for various reasons, and 161 applications involving an amount of Rs. 26,465 were accepted during the quarter under report, leaving a balance of 313 applications involving an amount of Rs. 77,625. Including the cases that awaited payment at the end of the previous quarter, the number of cases in which advances were made during the quarter was 190, and the total amount advanced including payment of second instalment was Rs. 33,325. Steps are being taken for the disposal of the remaining cases. Out of the allotment of Rs. 2,49,900 given to me for making advances to the ryots holding lands under the Periyár project for the current year, a sum of Rupees 40,000 has been surrendered for utilization elsewhere. The waste lands commanded by the project are now being sold, and the advantages of State loans and the revised rules framed with regard to the same are being explained to the ryots. In this connection, I beg to submit that some delay is unavoidable in granting loans, because the Government has now ordered that encumbrance certificates should be obtained in all cases including those in which the lands to be improved are offered as security. I have, however, requested the Registrar of Assurances to arrange for additional establishment if necessary and furnish me the certificates without delay.

4. *Laying out of distributaries.*—During the quarter under report, applications from the Public Works Department for lands to be acquired for the 4th and 7th distributaries under the Periyár 12th Branch channel, and for nine distributaries under the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 9th Branch channels were received, and the lands required for the same have also been measured. Draft declarations and schedule for the acquisition of the same have also been submitted to you for publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The total extent measured by the three Special Revenue Inspectors during the quarter under report was 29·7 acres. Compensation for lands acquired for the 6th distributary under the Periyár 12th Branch channel and for some old cases which were pending previous to the quarter was settled and paid, and the total amount of compensation disbursed to the parties during the quarter was Rupees 1,953–2–8. The remaining cases also are receiving prompt attention.

5. *Sales of waste lands.*—During the quarter under report, an extent of 150·16 acres of assessed waste lands in 16 villages in the Madura taluk was sold for Rupees 17,814, and the results of the sales have been reported to you then and there on the completion of the sales of each village. The sales of waste lands in the remaining villages of the Madura and Mélúr taluks are also going on, and a general report on the results thereof will be submitted to you in due course. The total amount realized by auction sale of Government assessed waste lands during fasli 1307 was Rupees 3,07,856–14–0 for 3,415·94 acres in 41 villages. As I have already reported to you, several causes have contributed to discourage the sales of waste lands :—

(1) A notice published in the *Madura District Gazette* by the Special Executive Engineer most prejudicial to the sales of waste lands. On your requisition to the Engineer to withdraw the notice, he withdrew only one paragraph of the notice and refused to cancel the whole (*vide* your R. on C. No. 1882-Genl., dated 19th July 1898).

(2) As soon as the sales in September 1897 were over, I wrote to the Engineer and to you that the results of the future sales would depend upon the means of irrigation given to the purchasers, and requested the former to complete the distributaries and channels for all the villages in which waste lands had been sold and in those where sales were proposed. On account of financial pressure, I understood that all new works had been stopped. I then requested you to treat the Periyár works as a special case and sanction the necessary allotment. You were good enough to move in the matter, and the Board of Revenue was pleased to strongly recommend to Government for the grant of sufficient allotment. The Chief Engineer permitted works under a given allotment (*vide* G.O., Mis. No. 852, dated 17th February 1898), but this was not taken advantage of, and very little was done in any of the villages in the Madura taluk. The purchasers of waste lands and ryots bitterly complained, and individual petitions did not carry much weight. Villagewar particulars of blocks of 50 acres and more for several villages in the Madura taluk were then furnished to the Special Executive Engineer, and he has admitted in his reply, No. 510-M., dated 3rd August 1898, that the progress with the distributaries in the Madura taluk has been bad and attributes it mainly to want of establishment and also to difficulties in labour, to want of a Sub-divisional officer and the appointment of a man in disgrace as Overseer and states that it was absolutely impossible that any decent progress should be made. A copy of this reply, I have already submitted to you bringing to your notice other defects and important works to be carried on by the Public Works Department, and requesting that the Board may be moved in the matter.

(3) The Public Works Department have misconstrued the order of Government embodied in B.P., No. 29, dated the 22nd February 1896, and have been most unsympathetic in dealing with petitions of purchasers in providing means of irrigation.

(4) The certificates of irrigability granted in some cases by the Department of Public Works happened to be wrong, and the sales had to be cancelled to the loss and annoyance of the purchasers.

(5) The distribution of water for the waste lands sold was in some cases difficult owing to defects in channels and sluices.

(6) Natural and expected difficulties in procuring labourers and cultivating ryots and manure.

I have, however, tried my best to secure as far as possible for the current sales nearly the average of the sales of 1897, but have not been able to obtain better results as I had anticipated. I shall report further on this matter at the end of the next month.

6. *Whole inam and zemin tanks supplied with Periyár water.*—During the quarter under report, Periyár water was supplied on application to 69 zemin and inam tanks covering an extent of 6,425·63 acres. As regards the dry lands in whole inam and zemin villages, a general report was submitted to you in my Dis. No. 342 of 1898, dated the 26th June last, and you have ordered in your Dis. No. 32-R. of 1898, dated the 7th July last, that Periyár water to these lands should be refused as there will be none to spare for them. But, before the receipt of your orders, some applications were received by the Special Executive Engineer and water has been let in. In these cases necessary kararnamah will be taken from the applicants.

7. *Prospects of extension of irrigation and the attitude of the ryots.*—During the quarter under report, 85 applications for Periyár water for converting about 250 acres of dry land into wet were received, and almost all of them have been complied with. There is much scope for extension of wet cultivation, and the people are ready to convert their dry lands into wet as soon as all the distributaries are laid out and are in working order. The distribution of water rests with the Department of Public Works, and I have been addressing that department very often on the subject.

8. *Distribution of water.*—The head sluice in the Periyár was promised to be opened on the 25th May last, but was actually opened some days hence. Every effort was made to induce the ryots to raise a short crop. The tanks were supplied one by one, and the number of tanks supplied with Periyár water during the quarter was 103 in the Madura taluk and 260 in the Mélúr taluk.

9. The quarter under report being the close of the fasli year, I beg to submit, for the information of the Board, a statement showing the increase of revenue due to the Periyár project for the fasli year 1307. The total increase in Madura and Mélúr taluks was Rs. 1,60,231 against Rs. 95,572 for fasli 1306.

10. *General remarks.*—The quarter under report being the close of the fasli year, my Special Revenue Inspectors had to azimoish cultivation in whole inam and zemin villages supplied with Periyár water. As the karnams were engaged in jamabandi work and the nattamgars in collection work, no sales were posted in May and June.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT showing the increase of revenue due to the Periyár project for fasli 1307.

No.	Taluk.	Corresponding first group wet assessment on occupied wet lands.	Water-rate on occupied dry lands.	Water-rate on whole inam and zemindari dry and wet lands.	Second crop wet assessment.	Unauthorized cultivation.	Water-rate on minor inams.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1	Madura	37,356	14,887	32,253	9,872	7,533	598	1,02,499
2	Mélúr	48,402	3,447	..	4,553	1,330	..	57,732
	Total ..	85,758	18,334	32,253	14,425	8,863	598	1,60,231

Endorsement by J. G. D. PARTRIDGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 14th September 1898, R. on C. No. 272-B—Pdl.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras.

2. A copy of the notice referred to in clause 1 of paragraph 5 of the foregoing letter is herewith submitted. The last of it was the only portion likely to be misconstrued and it was withdrawn. The remainder of it was not withdrawn on the ground that it did not concern any one and cannot have any effect on the sales.

3. The Special Deputy Collector's letter referred to at the end of clause 2 of the same paragraph will be shortly submitted for the orders of the Board.

4. The matter referred to in clause 3 of paragraph 5 has been submitted for the orders of Government (*vide* B.P., Mis. No. 4668 Settlement, dated 2nd August 1898).

5. The figures given in the Deputy Collector's statement referred to in paragraph 9 of this letter differ from those given in B.P., No. 296 (Revenue Settlement), dated 11th August 1898. The Deputy Collector has been called upon to explain the discrepancy.

Enclosure.

Periyár Project.

Sales of waste lands.

Intending purchasers are informed that, under orders of Government, channels will be dug to supply blocks of lands of not less than 50 acres in extent.

For smaller areas, purchasers will have to dig the necessary petty field channels themselves; but will be given any necessary professional advice that they may solicit, by officers and subordinates of the Department of Public Works.

The certificate of irrigability given by this department simply states that water can be brought on to the lands, and in cases where any field, as a whole, is too high, it states that the lands must be lowered by such and such a depth.

No guarantee is given that the lands are irrigable as they stand, and intending purchasers must see for themselves whether they will have to incur expense in levelling the lands, digging channels, &c., and whether the lands are suitable for irrigation.

The above notice is issued, as wrong impressions seem to have been given to certain purchasers who have bought lands without first viewing them, and then ask for a return of their purchase money, because the lands are of little value, or expect field channels to be dug to every field.

Resolution—No. 402, dated 26th October 1898.

With the endorsement read above, the Collector of Madura submits the progress report of the Special Deputy Collector, Periyár Irrigation, for the quarter ending 30th June 1898.

2. During the quarter under review, no darkhast applications were received from Tahsildars; but a few cases pending in some of the villages of Madura and Mélúr taluks were disposed of. In regard to the darkhast applications which were stated in paragraph 2 of the review for the preceding quarter to be then pending, it is reported that the disposal of applications relating to the five villages on the south bank of the Vaigai has been postponed, as the Special Executive Engineer thinks it inadvisable to encourage the idea of any extension of wet cultivation on the southern side of the river. The Special Deputy Collector makes no mention of the pending darkhast applications in Kurichipatti village of Mélúr taluk referred to in the review for the preceding quarter. Government having since made provision for the entertainment of some temporary establishment for sub-division work, the Survey Department commenced the work and completed the survey in 32 out of 33 Periyár-affected villages of

the Mélúr taluk. Arrangements appear also to have been made in consultation with the Madura Division Deputy Collector to commence the survey of sub-divisions in 101 villages of the Madura taluk affected by the Periyár.

3. The subjoined statement exhibits the disposal of applications for loans during the quarter under review, as compared with that during the preceding quarter. The amount involved in the applications pending at the end of the quarter, according to the particulars in paragraph 3 of the Special Deputy Collector's letter, comes to Rs. 70,790 and not to Rs. 77,625 as given in the report. The discrepancy should be explained:—

—	Applications pending at the beginning of the year.		Applications received during the quarter.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		RS.		RS.		RS.
Quarter ending 31st March 1898 ..	391	69,486	202	84,037	683	1,53,523
" 30th June 1898 ..	376	68,085	208	40,900	584	1,08,985

—	Applications rejected during the quarter.		Applications accepted during the quarter.		Applications pending at the end of the quarter.		Amount disbursed.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		RS.		RS.		RS.	RS.
Quarter ending 31st March 1898 ..	30	3,640	277	64,858	376	86,025	48,364
" 30th June 1898 ..	110	11,730	161	26,465	313	70,790	33,325

Out of Rs. 2·09 lakhs sanctioned for the current official year, only Rs. 33,325 were spent. The Special Deputy Collector, while stating that the advantages of State loans under the consolidated revised rules are being explained to the ryots, reports that delay is unavoidable in granting loans, as under G.O., No. 218, Revenue, dated 23rd April 1898, encumbrance certificates have to be obtained in all cases of loans, including those in which the lands to be benefited are offered as security, and that he has requested the Registrars of Assurances to apply for additional establishment, if necessary, so that they may be able to furnish the certificates without delay. If the suggestion made in B.P., No. 5653, dated 20th September 1898, that it will be sufficient to limit searches to twelve years, is accepted by Government, there will be less delay in obtaining the required certificates from Registration offices. In the meanwhile, the Special Deputy Collector will be requested to make his best endeavours to utilize the full grant.

4. Applications for lands required for two distributaries under the 12th Branch channel and for nine distributaries under the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 9th Branch channels were received during the quarter. The lands were measured, and the necessary notifications for the acquisition thereof have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. Compensation for lands acquired for the sixth distributary under the 12th Branch channel and for some old cases were settled, and the total amount disbursed to parties during the quarter was Rs. 1,953–2–8. The three special Revenue Inspectors measured 29·7 acres of the lands acquired. They had also to inspect cultivation in whole inam and zemin villages supplied with Periyár water, as the quarter under report was the last of the fasli year.

5. An extent of 150·16 acres of assessed waste lands in sixteen villages in the Madura taluk was sold for Rs. 17,814 in April last. No sales were conducted in

May and June owing to karnams having been engaged in jamabandi work, and the nattamgars in the work of revenue collection. The total amount realized in fasli 1307 by auction sale of Government waste lands, measuring 3,415·94 acres in 41 villages, was Rs. 3,07,856–14–0.

6. The Special Deputy Collector states, in paragraph 5 of his report, that the following causes have tended to discourage the sales of waste lands under the Periyár :—

(1) The publication by the Special Executive Engineer, of a notice of which a copy has been forwarded by the Collector. It is reported that the last clause of the notice was subsequently withdrawn by the Executive Engineer. The gist of the notice is to warn purchasers that they must make their own arrangements for conveying water from the main distributaries, if the land purchased is not in a block of at least 50 acres. The bidding at the auctions seems to have been in many cases speculative and reckless; the warning given does not seem open to objection. The fact is that land at the disposal of Government cannot be sold to the best advantage, unless and until it is made clear how water can be brought to it.

(2) Non-completion of distributaries and channels for the villages in which land was sold or sales were proposed.

(3) The position taken up by the Public Works officers that, under G.O., No. 698 I., dated 17th August 1896, they have no concern with distributaries required for the irrigation of areas less than 50 acres; and their unsympathetic treatment of petitions from purchasers asking for water-supply.

(4) The incorrectness of the certificates of irrigability granted in some cases by the Public Works Department which led to cancelment of sales and consequent loss to Government and annoyance to purchasers.

(5) Difficulties experienced by the purchasers in procuring labourers and cultivating ryots and manure.

In regard to (2), it is reported that the Special Executive Engineer attributes the non-completion of distributaries and channels mainly to want of establishment, to difficulties in procuring labour, to want of a Sub-divisional officer and to the appointment of an incompetent man as Overseer. The attention of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be drawn to the matter. The Deputy Collector states that, in regard to certain other defects and important works to be carried on by the Public Works Department, he has addressed the Collector; and the latter officer states in his endorsement that the Deputy Collector's report will be shortly submitted for the Board's orders.

In regard to (3), the orders of Government on B.P., Mis. No. 4668, dated 2nd August 1898, are awaited.

7. Sixty-nine zemin and inam tanks irrigating a total extent of 6,425·63 acres were supplied, on application, with Periyár water during the quarter. The Collector's order that Periyár water should, for the present, be refused to dry lands in whole inam and zemin villages has the approval of the Board. The Special Deputy Collector states, that before receipt of the Collector's order, some applications had been received by the Special Executive Engineer and accepted by him.

8. During the quarter under report, only 85 applications were received in Government villages for converting about 250 acres of dry land into wet, against 272 applications for 500 acres during the preceding quarter. Almost all the applications were complied with. The decrease in the number of applications has not been explained by the Deputy Collector. He states, however, that there is scope for extension of wet cultivation, as the people are ready to convert dry lands to wet as soon as the necessary distributaries are laid out and are in working order, and that, as the distribution of water rests with the Public Works Department, he is frequently addressing that department on the subject. During the quarter 103 tanks in Madura and 260 tanks in Mélúr were supplied with Periyár water; and every endeavour was made by the Special Deputy Collector to induce the ryots to raise a short crop.

9. The statement appended to the Special Deputy Collector's report shows a total increase of Rs. 1,60,231 in the irrigation revenue in the Madura and Mélúr taluks during fasli 1307, against Rs. 95,572 during fasli 1306. The explanation called for from the Special Deputy Collector for the variation between the increase as given in this statement and as reported in B.P., No. 296, dated 11th August 1898, should, when received, be submitted for the information of the Board.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Madura.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Copy to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 178 I

DATED 20th Feby. 1899.

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ICS 27/1/99

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The Chief Engr for I
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Exe P.W.D.

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for Secretary to Government.

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,, P. W. Dept. (Irrigation.)

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3. *Disposal of applications for loans.*—Two hundred and eight applications involving an amount of Rs. 40,900 were received during the quarter, and the total number of applications that had to be disposed of during the quarter, including the cases pending at the end of the previous quarter, was 584 involving an amount of Rs. 1,08,985. Of these, 110 applications involving an amount of Rs. 11,730 were rejected for various reasons, and 161 applications involving an amount of Rs. 26,465 were accepted during the quarter under report, leaving a balance of 313 applications involving an amount of Rs. 77,625. Including the cases that awaited payment at the end of the previous quarter, the number of cases in which advances were made during the quarter was 190, and the total amount advanced including payment of second instalment was Rs. 33,325. Steps are being taken for the disposal of the remaining cases. Out of the allotment of Rs. 2,49,900 given to me for making advances to the ryots holding lands under the Periyár project for the current year, a sum of Rupees 40,000 has been surrendered for utilization elsewhere. The waste lands commanded by the project are now being sold, and the advantages of State loans and the revised rules framed with regard to the same are being explained to the ryots. In this connection, I beg to submit that some delay is unavoidable in granting loans, because the Government has now ordered that encumbrance certificates should be obtained in all cases including those in which the lands to be improved are offered as security. I have, however, requested the Registrar of Assurances to arrange for additional establishment if necessary and furnish me the certificates without delay.

4. *Laying out of distributaries.*—During the quarter under report, applications from the Public Works Department for lands to be acquired for the 4th and 7th distributaries under the Periyár 12th Branch channel, and for nine distributaries under the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 9th Branch channels were received, and the lands required for the same have also been measured. Draft declarations and schedule for the acquisition of the same have also been submitted to you for publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. The total extent measured by the three Special Revenue Inspectors during the quarter under report was 29·7 acres. Compensation for lands acquired for the 6th distributary under the Periyár 12th Branch channel and for some old cases which were pending previous to the quarter was settled and paid, and the total amount of compensation disbursed to the parties during the quarter was Rupees 1,953–2–8. The remaining cases also are receiving prompt attention.

5. *Sales of waste lands.*—During the quarter under report, an extent of 150·16 acres of assessed waste lands in 16 villages in the Madura taluk was sold for Rupees 17,814, and the results of the sales have been reported to you then and there on the completion of the sales of each village. The sales of waste lands in the remaining villages of the Madura and Mélúr taluks are also going on, and a general report on the results thereof will be submitted to you in due course. The total amount realized by auction sale of Government assessed waste lands during fasli 1307 was Rupees 3,07,856–14–0 for 3,415·94 acres in 41 villages. As I have already reported to you, several causes have contributed to discourage the sales of waste lands :—

(1) A notice published in the *Madura District Gazette* by the Special Executive Engineer most prejudicial to the sales of waste lands. On your requisition to the Engineer to withdraw the notice, he withdrew only one paragraph of the notice and refused to cancel the whole (*vide* your R. on C. No. 1882-Genl., dated 19th July 1898).

(2) As soon as the sales in September 1897 were over, I wrote to the Engineer and to you that the results of the future sales would depend upon the means of irrigation given to the purchasers, and requested the former to complete the distributaries and channels for all the villages in which waste lands had been sold and in those where sales were proposed. On account of financial pressure, I understood that all new works had been stopped. I then requested you to treat the Periyár works as a special case and sanction the necessary allotment. You were good enough to move in the matter, and the Board of Revenue was pleased to strongly recommend to Government for the grant of sufficient allotment. The Chief Engineer permitted works under a given allotment (*vide* G.O., Mis. No. 852, dated 17th February 1898), but this was not taken advantage of, and very little was done in any of the villages in the Madura taluk. The purchasers of waste lands and ryots bitterly complained, and individual petitions did not carry much weight. Villagewar particulars of blocks of 50 acres and more for several villages in the Madura taluk were then furnished to the Special Executive Engineer, and he has admitted in his reply, No. 510-M., dated 3rd August 1898, that the progress with the distributaries in the Madura taluk has been bad and attributes it mainly to want of establishment and also to difficulties in labour, to want of a Sub-divisional officer and the appointment of a man in disgrace as Overseer and states that it was absolutely impossible that any decent progress should be made. A copy of this reply, I have already submitted to you bringing to your notice other defects and important works to be carried on by the Public Works Department, and requesting that the Board may be moved in the matter.

(3) The Public Works Department have misconstrued the order of Government embodied in B.P., No. 29, dated the 22nd February 1896, and have been most unsympathetic in dealing with petitions of purchasers in providing means of irrigation.

(4) The certificates of irrigability granted in some cases by the Department of Public Works happened to be wrong, and the sales had to be cancelled to the loss and annoyance of the purchasers.

(5) The distribution of water for the waste lands sold was in some cases difficult owing to defects in channels and sluices.

(6) Natural and expected difficulties in procuring labourers and cultivating ryots and manure.

I have, however, tried my best to secure as far as possible for the current sales nearly the average of the sales of 1897, but have not been able to obtain better results as I had anticipated. I shall report further on this matter at the end of the next month.

6. *Whole inam and zemin tanks supplied with Periyár water.*—During the quarter under report, Periyár water was supplied on application to 69 zemin and inam tanks covering an extent of 6,425·63 acres. As regards the dry lands in whole inam and zemin villages, a general report was submitted to you in my Dis. No. 342 of 1898, dated the 26th June last, and you have ordered in your Dis. No. 32-R. of 1898, dated the 7th July last, that Periyár water to these lands should be refused as there will be none to spare for them. But, before the receipt of your orders, some applications were received by the Special Executive Engineer and water has been let in. In these cases necessary kararnamah will be taken from the applicants.

7. *Prospects of extension of irrigation and the attitude of the ryots.*—During the quarter under report, 85 applications for Periyár water for converting about 250 acres of dry land into wet were received, and almost all of them have been complied with. There is much scope for extension of wet cultivation, and the people are ready to convert their dry lands into wet as soon as all the distributaries are laid out and are in working order. The distribution of water rests with the Department of Public Works, and I have been addressing that department very often on the subject.

8. *Distribution of water.*—The head sluice in the Periyár was promised to be opened on the 25th May last, but was actually opened some days hence. Every effort was made to induce the ryots to raise a short crop. The tanks were supplied one by one, and the number of tanks supplied with Periyár water during the quarter was 103 in the Madura taluk and 260 in the Mélúr taluk.

9. The quarter under report being the close of the fasli year, I beg to submit, for the information of the Board, a statement showing the increase of revenue due to the Periyár project for the fasli year 1307. The total increase in Madura and Mélúr taluks was Rs. 1,60,231 against Rs. 95,572 for fasli 1306.

10. *General remarks.*—The quarter under report being the close of the fasli year, my Special Revenue Inspectors had to azimoish cultivation in whole inam and zemin villages supplied with Periyár water. As the karnams were engaged in jamabandi work and the nattamgars in collection work, no sales were posted in May and June.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT showing the increase of revenue due to the Periyár project for fasli 1307.

No.	Taluk.	Corresponding first group wet assessment on occupied wet lands.	Water-rate on occupied dry lands.	Water-rate on whole inam and zemindari dry and wet lands.	Second crop wet assessment.	Unauthorized cultivation.	Water-rate on minor inams.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1	Madura	37,356	14,887	32,253	9,872	7,533	598	1,02,499
2	Mélúr	48,402	3,447	..	4,553	1,330	..	57,732
	Total ..	85,758	18,334	32,253	14,425	8,863	598	1,60,231

Endorsement by J. G. D. PARTRIDGE, Esq., Collector of Madurá, dated 14th September 1898, R. on C. No. 272-B—Pdl.

Submitted to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Madras.

2. A copy of the notice referred to in clause 1 of paragraph 5 of the foregoing letter is herewith submitted. The last of it was the only portion likely to be misconstrued and it was withdrawn. The remainder of it was not withdrawn on the ground that it did not concern any one and cannot have any effect on the sales.

3. The Special Deputy Collector's letter referred to at the end of clause 2 of the same paragraph will be shortly submitted for the orders of the Board.

4. The matter referred to in clause 3 of paragraph 5 has been submitted for the orders of Government (*vide* B.P., Mis. No. 4668 Settlement, dated 2nd August 1898).

5. The figures given in the Deputy Collector's statement referred to in paragraph 9 of this letter differ from those given in B.P., No. 296 (Revenue Settlement), dated 11th August 1898. The Deputy Collector has been called upon to explain the discrepancy.

Enclosure.

Periyár Project.

Sales of waste lands.

Intending purchasers are informed that, under orders of Government, channels will be dug to supply blocks of lands of not less than 50 acres in extent.

For smaller areas, purchasers will have to dig the necessary petty field channels themselves; but will be given any necessary professional advice that they may solicit, by officers and subordinates of the Department of Public Works.

The certificate of irrigability given by this department simply states that water can be brought on to the lands, and in cases where any field, as a whole, is too high, it states that the lands must be lowered by such and such a depth.

No guarantee is given that the lands are irrigable as they stand, and intending purchasers must see for themselves whether they will have to incur expense in levelling the lands, digging channels, &c., and whether the lands are suitable for irrigation.

The above notice is issued, as wrong impressions seem to have been given to certain purchasers who have bought lands without first viewing them, and then ask for a return of their purchase money, because the lands are of little value, or expect field channels to be dug to every field.

Resolution—No. 402, dated 26th October 1898.

With the endorsement read above, the Collector of Madura submits the progress report of the Special Deputy Collector, Periyár Irrigation, for the quarter ending 30th June 1898.

2. During the quarter under review, no darkhast applications were received from Tahsildars; but a few cases pending in some of the villages of Madura and Mélúr taluks were disposed of. In regard to the darkhast applications which were stated in paragraph 2 of the review for the preceding quarter to be then pending, it is reported that the disposal of applications relating to the five villages on the south bank of the Vaigai has been postponed, as the Special Executive Engineer thinks it inadvisable to encourage the idea of any extension of wet cultivation on the southern side of the river. The Special Deputy Collector makes no mention of the pending darkhast applications in Kurichipatti village of Mélúr taluk referred to in the review for the preceding quarter. Government having since made provision for the entertainment of some temporary establishment for sub-division work, the Survey Department commenced the work and completed the survey in 32 out of 33 Periyár-affected villages of

the Mélúr taluk. Arrangements appear also to have been made in consultation with the Madura Division Deputy Collector to commence the survey of sub-divisions in 101 villages of the Madura taluk affected by the Periyár.

3. The subjoined statement exhibits the disposal of applications for loans during the quarter under review, as compared with that during the preceding quarter. The amount involved in the applications pending at the end of the quarter, according to the particulars in paragraph 3 of the Special Deputy Collector's letter, comes to Rs. 70,790 and not to Rs. 77,625 as given in the report. The discrepancy should be explained :—

—	Applications pending at the beginning of the year.		Applications received during the quarter.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		RS.		RS.		RS.
Quarter ending 31st March 1898 ..	391	69,486	202	84,037	683	1,53,523
„ 30th June 1898 ..	376	68,085	208	40,900	584	1,08,985

—	Applications rejected during the quarter.		Applications accepted during the quarter.		Applications pending at the end of the quarter.		Amount disbursed.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		RS.		RS.		RS.	RS.
Quarter ending 31st March 1898 ..	30	3,640	277	64,858	376	86,025	48,364
„ 30th June 1898 ..	110	11,730	161	26,465	313	70,790	33,325

Out of Rs. 2·09 lakhs sanctioned for the current official year, only Rs. 33,325 were spent. The Special Deputy Collector, while stating that the advantages of State loans under the consolidated revised rules are being explained to the ryots, reports that delay is unavoidable in granting loans, as under G.O., No. 218, Revenue, dated 23rd April 1898, encumbrance certificates have to be obtained in all cases of loans, including those in which the lands to be benefited are offered as security, and that he has requested the Registrars of Assurances to apply for additional establishment, if necessary, so that they may be able to furnish the certificates without delay. If the suggestion made in B.P., No. 5653, dated 20th September 1898, that it will be sufficient to limit searches to twelve years, is accepted by Government, there will be less delay in obtaining the required certificates from Registration offices. In the meanwhile, the Special Deputy Collector will be requested to make his best endeavours to utilize the full grant.

4. Applications for lands required for two distributaries under the 12th Branch channel and for nine distributaries under the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 9th Branch channels were received during the quarter. The lands were measured, and the necessary notifications for the acquisition thereof have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. Compensation for lands acquired for the sixth distributary under the 12th Branch channel and for some old cases were settled, and the total amount disbursed to parties during the quarter was Rs. 1,953–2–8. The three special Revenue Inspectors measured 29·7 acres of the lands acquired. They had also to inspect cultivation in whole inam and zemin villages supplied with Periyár water, as the quarter under report was the last of the fasli year.

5. An extent of 150·16 acres of assessed waste lands in sixteen villages in the Madura taluk was sold for Rs. 17,814 in April last. No sales were conducted in

May and June owing to karnams having been engaged in jamabandi work, and the nattamgars in the work of revenue collection. The total amount realized in fasli 1307 by auction sale of Government waste lands, measuring 3,415·94 acres in 41 villages, was Rs. 3,07,856–14–0.

6. The Special Deputy Collector states, in paragraph 5 of his report, that the following causes have tended to discourage the sales of waste lands under the Periyár :—

(1) The publication by the Special Executive Engineer, of a notice of which a copy has been forwarded by the Collector. It is reported that the last clause of the notice was subsequently withdrawn by the Executive Engineer. The gist of the notice is to warn purchasers that they must make their own arrangements for conveying water from the main distributaries, if the land purchased is not in a block of at least 50 acres. The bidding at the auctions seems to have been in many cases speculative and reckless; the warning given does not seem open to objection. The fact is that land at the disposal of Government cannot be sold to the best advantage, unless and until it is made clear how water can be brought to it.

(2) Non-completion of distributaries and channels for the villages in which land was sold or sales were proposed.

(3) The position taken up by the Public Works officers that, under G.O., No. 698 I., dated 17th August 1896, they have no concern with distributaries required for the irrigation of areas less than 50 acres; and their unsympathetic treatment of petitions from purchasers asking for water-supply.

(4) The incorrectness of the certificates of irrigability granted in some cases by the Public Works Department which led to cancelment of sales and consequent loss to Government and annoyance to purchasers.

(5) Difficulties experienced by the purchasers in procuring labourers and cultivating ryots and manure.

In regard to (2), it is reported that the Special Executive Engineer attributes the non-completion of distributaries and channels mainly to want of establishment, to difficulties in procuring labour, to want of a Sub-divisional officer and to the appointment of an incompetent man as Overseer. The attention of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be drawn to the matter. The Deputy Collector states that, in regard to certain other defects and important works to be carried on by the Public Works Department, he has addressed the Collector; and the latter officer states in his endorsement that the Deputy Collector's report will be shortly submitted for the Board's orders.

In regard to (3), the orders of Government on B.P., Mis. No. 4668, dated 2nd August 1898, are awaited.

7. Sixty-nine zemin and inam tanks irrigating a total extent of 6,425·63 acres were supplied, on application, with Periyár water during the quarter. The Collector's order that Periyár water should, for the present, be refused to dry lands in whole inam and zemin villages has the approval of the Board. The Special Deputy Collector states, that before receipt of the Collector's order, some applications had been received by the Special Executive Engineer and accepted by him.

8. During the quarter under report, only 85 applications were received in Government villages for converting about 250 acres of dry land into wet, against 272 applications for 500 acres during the preceding quarter. Almost all the applications were complied with. The decrease in the number of applications has not been explained by the Deputy Collector. He states, however, that there is scope for extension of wet cultivation, as the people are ready to convert dry lands to wet as soon as the necessary distributaries are laid out and are in working order, and that, as the distribution of water rests with the Public Works Department, he is frequently addressing that department on the subject. During the quarter 103 tanks in Madura and 260 tanks in Mélúr were supplied with Periyár water; and every endeavour was made by the Special Deputy Collector to induce the ryots to raise a short crop.

9. The statement appended to the Special Deputy Collector's report shows a total increase of Rs. 1,60,231 in the irrigation revenue in the Madura and Mélúr taluks during fasli 1307, against Rs. 95,572 during fasli 1306. The explanation called for from the Special Deputy Collector for the variation between the increase as given in this statement and as reported in B.P., No. 296, dated 11th August 1898, should, when received, be submitted for the information of the Board.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Madura.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Copy to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Rxd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.